AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended): A network monitoring system for monitoring the packet delivery performance of a packet-based network, the network monitoring system comprising:

a first gateway device;

a second gateway device in communication with the first gateway device, wherein the first gateway device and the second gateway device communicate by transmitting a sequence of digital packets, the second gateway device further comprising:

a control protocol process generating packet delivery performance statistics between the second gateway device and the first gateway device;

a network monitoring process for collecting packet delivery performance statistics between the first gateway device and the second gateway device; and

a database for storing packet delivery performance statistics according to gateway pairs.

2 (currently amended): The systeminvention of claim 1 wherein a view of network performance is measured by compiling packet performance statistics between the first and second gateway devices.

3 (currently amended): The systeminvention of claim 1 wherein the control protocol process generating packet delivery performance statistics utilizes RTCP.

4 (currently amended): The systeminvention of claim 1 wherein the sequence of digital packets includesdigital information packets contain real-time voice and audio information.

5 (currently amended): The systeminvention of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of gateways generating network performance data; wherein the gateways are organized according to a hierarchical network organization structure to facilitate the organization of network performance data.

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6 (currently amended): The system~~invention~~ of claim 5 wherein the network hierarchy comprises organizing individual gateway devices into groups for the purposes of collecting network packet delivery performance information according to the network hierarchy.

7 (currently amended): The system~~invention~~ of claim 1 wherein the packet delivery performance statistics comprise jitter and packet loss statistics.

8 (currently amended): The system~~invention~~ of claim 1 wherein the packet delivery performance statistics comprises round-trip delay statistics.

9 (currently amended): The system~~invention~~ of claim 1 wherein the network monitoring system comprises alarm processing for detecting when packet delivery performance statistics~~statistic~~ exceed alarm thresholds.

10 (currently amended): The system~~invention~~ of claim 1 wherein the network monitoring system comprises long term monitoring of ~~detecting when~~ packet delivery performance statistics.

11-15 (canceled).

16 (currently amended): A method for monitoring the performance of a network system comprising:

generating packet delivery statistics for packets from a first gateway device to a second gateway device;

compiling packet delivery statistics generated from the first gateway device to the second gateway device at a monitor gateway; and

monitoring the packet delivery statistics at the monitor gateway to determine the packet delivery performance between the first gateway device and the second gateway device.

17 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of generating packet delivery statistics is generated according to the RTCP protocol.

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18 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of compiling the network delivery statistics is performed with a database; wherein the database organizes packet delivery performance according to pairs of gateways.

19 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of monitoring the packet delivery statistics is performed at various time scales.

20 (original): The method of claim 19 wherein the step of monitoring is performed on a time scale appropriate to real-time monitoring of call sessions.

21 (original): The method of claim 19 wherein the step of monitoring is performed on a time scale appropriate to near real-time monitoring to provide current network conditions.

22 (original): The method of claim 19 the step of monitoring is performed on a time scale appropriate to long-term trend analysis.

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